

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

NO. 13-CR-20212

vs.

HON. AVERN COHN

D-2 SHAWN WILLIAMS,

Defendant.

SENTENCING MEMORANDUM OF THE UNITED STATES

The United States of America, through the undersigned Assistant United States Attorney, submits the following as its Sentencing Memorandum in the case of defendant Shawn Williams:

The Defendant is guilty of conspiring to commit extortion, a serious crime wherein he breached his position of trust as a police officer for Highland Park, Michigan. In exchange for \$1,000 in cash, the Defendant violated his oath as a police officer and protected what he believed to be a shipment of four kilograms of cocaine. The Defendant conspired with three other Highland Park police officers to transport and protect the shipment of cocaine. The Defendant and the other three police officers all brought firearms and police badges to do the work of transporting

and protecting a shipment of cocaine. This gross breach of the law and their oaths as police officers was an extremely serious crime. The punishment of the Court should send a clear message to other law enforcement officers that such conduct cannot and will not be tolerated. This case is an important instance of the need to deter other police officers from breaking the law and taking bribes. As a result, a sentence of imprisonment within the guideline range of 18 to 24 months is needed because of the seriousness of the crime, the need for general deterrence, and the need to promote respect for the law. The public needs to know that law enforcement officers who break the law will be punished.

I. The Defendant's Crimes Were Serious

The Defendant's criminal acts as a police officer were very serious crimes. The conspiracy that defendant Williams joined involved four police officers all assisting in the protection and transportation of four kilograms of cocaine. Drug trafficking involving such quantities of drugs would normally amount to a serious crime. Carrying a gun and transporting kilograms of cocaine is so serious that it carries a mandatory ten years of imprisonment--five years for carrying the gun and five years for the quantity of cocaine. In this instance, however, the crime was even worse because four police officers chose to lend their power as law enforcement

officials to actually protect and carry out criminal activity. The officers brought their police badges and guns in order to protect and to participate in criminal conduct. Defendant Williams, while carrying his police badge and Glock semi-automatic pistol, followed and watched a car that he believed contained two kilograms of cocaine. His badge and gun would serve to protect the drug shipment that he was following for a man he believe to be a serious drug trafficker. Because of their badges, weapons, power, and knowledge, police officers who assist drug traffickers magnify the seriousness of their crimes.

II. Other Police Officers Need to be Deterred from Breaking the Law and Taking Bribes

The sentence imposed on defendant Williams must be sufficient to deter other police officers from taking bribes from criminals to break the law or to not do their jobs as members of law enforcement. Although it is unclear if there is a need to deter defendant Williams from future criminal acts, there is a strong need to send a decisive message to other police officers that they will receive serious punishment if they abuse their positions of trust. Every day, law enforcement officers face the temptation of abusing their positions of power and public trust. The community of law enforcement officers around southeast Michigan and around the state will know exactly the nature of the sentence that this Court imposes in this case. A sentence of

imprisonment within the guideline range will send a strong message to police officers in southeast Michigan to ensure that they maintain their oaths and not abuse their positions of trust. Police officers wield immense power, and a sentence of imprisonment on defendant Williams will help to deter corrupt decisions from being made in wielding that power.

III. The Sentence Imposed Should Promote Respect for the Law

Given the Defendant's position as a law enforcement officer, it is important that the Court's sentence promote respect for the law. A sentence of imprisonment would demonstrate that no one is above the law, no matter their position as a police officer. In fact, police officers should be held to a higher standard given their positions of trust, power, and responsibility.

IV. Conclusion

The United States respectfully requests that the Court impose a sentence within the guideline range of 18 to 24 months. Such a sentence would deter other police officers, is necessary given the seriousness of the Defendant's crime, and would be just punishment for the crime. By comparison, this Court sentenced co-defendant Craig Clayton to 12 months and a day in prison, where Clayton's involvement in the offense was essentially indistinguishable from defendant

Williams, and Clayton received a reduction in his sentence based upon cooperation pursuant to Section 5K1.1. Given defendant Williams' lack of cooperation and apparent lack of genuine remorse, a sentence within the guideline range is appropriate.

BARBARA L. MCQUADE
United States Attorney

/s/ DAVID A. GARDEY
Assistant United States Attorney
211 W. Fort Street, Suite 2001
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: (313) 226-9591
E-Mail: David.Gardey@usdoj.gov
Bar No. P48990

Dated: October 2, 2013

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 2, 2013, I caused the foregoing document to be filed with the Clerk of the Court, and caused a copy of this document to be served on the following:

Thomas W. Warshaw, Esq.

/s/ DAVID A. GARDEY

Assistant United States Attorney

211 W. Fort Street, Suite 2001

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: (313) 226-9591

E-Mail: David.Gardey@usdoj.gov

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